

53RD REGULAR SESSION

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—ARMED FORCES—
RIGHT TO VOTE

H. J. R. No. 10

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas by repealing Section 2a of Article VI and by amending Sections 1 and 2 of Article VI so as to confer the privilege to vote upon members of the regular establishment of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force, or component branches thereof who are otherwise qualified electors, and so as to limit voting by persons in the military service of the United States to the county in which the voter resided at the time of entering such service; providing for submission of the proposed amendment to the qualified electors; providing for proclamation and publication by the Governor.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. That Section 2a of Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Texas be repealed and that Sections 1 and 2 of Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended so as to hereafter read as follows:

"Section 1. The following classes of persons shall not be allowed to vote in this State, to wit:

"First: Persons under twenty-one (21) years of age.

"Second: Idiots and lunatics.

"Third: All paupers supported by any county.

"Fourth: All persons convicted of any felony, subject to such exceptions as the Legislature may make.

"Section 2. Every person subject to none of the foregoing disqualifications who shall have attained the age of twenty-one (21) years and who shall be a citizen of the United States and who shall have resided in this State one (1) year next preceding an election and the last six (6) months within the district or county in which such person offers to vote, shall be deemed a qualified elector; and provided further, that any voter who is subject to pay a poll tax under the laws of the State of Texas shall have paid said tax before offering to vote at any election in this State and hold a receipt showing that said poll tax was paid before the first day of February next preceding such election. Or if said voter shall have lost or misplaced said tax receipt, he or she, as the case may be, shall be entitled to vote upon making affidavit before any officer authorized to administer oaths that such tax receipt has been lost. Such affidavit shall be made in writing and left with the judge of the election. The husband may pay the poll tax of his wife and receive the receipt therefor. In like manner, the wife may pay the poll tax of her husband and receive the receipt therefor. The Legislature may authorize absentee voting. And this provision of the Constitution shall be self-enacting without the necessity of further legislation. Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or component branches thereof, or in the military service of the United States, may vote only in the county in which he or she resided at the time of entering such service so long as he or she is a member of the Armed Forces."

Sec. 2. The foregoing Constitutional amendments shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of this State at the General Election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, A. D. 1954, at which all ballots shall have printed thereon the following:

"FOR the amendment of Sections 1 and 2 of Article VI of the Constitution of Texas so as to confer the privilege to vote upon members of the regular establishment of the United States Army, Navy, Marine

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Corps, or Air Force, or component branches thereof, who are otherwise qualified electors; and so as to limit voting by persons in the military service of the United States to the county in which the voter resided at the time of entering such service; and for the repeal of Section 2a of Article VI of the Constitution, which now permits qualified electors in military service to vote without payment of a poll tax in time of war."

"AGAINST the amendment of Sections 1 and 2 of Article VI of the Constitution of Texas so as to confer the privilege to vote upon members of the regular establishment of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force, or component branches thereof, who are otherwise qualified electors; and so as to limit voting by persons in the military service of the United States to the county in which the voter resided at the time of entering such service; and for the repeal of Section 2a of Article VI of the Constitution, which now permits qualified electors in military service to vote without payment of a poll tax in time of war."

Sec. 3. The Governor shall issue the necessary proclamation for said election and have the same published as required by the Constitution and laws of this State.

Adopted by the House, March 10, 1953: Yeas 132, Nays 8; House refused to concur in Senate amendments, May 6, 1953, and requested appointment of Conference Committee to consider differences between the two Houses; House adopted Conference Committee Report, May 21, 1953: Yeas 132, Nays 0; passed the Senate, as amended, April 28, 1953: Yeas 28, Nays 0; at request of House, Senate appointed Conference Committee to consider differences between the two Houses; Senate adopted Conference Committee Report, May 20, 1953: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Approved June 8, 1953.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—SERVICE OF WOMEN ON JURIES

H. J. R. No. 16

Proposing an Amendment to Section 19 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Texas to provide that the qualifications for service on grand and petit juries shall not be denied or abridged by reason of sex; providing for an election and the issuance of a proclamation therefor.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. That Section 19 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended so as hereafter to read as follows:

"Section 19. The Legislature shall prescribe by law the qualifications of grand and petit jurors; provided that neither the right nor the duty to serve on grand and petit juries shall be denied or abridged by reason of sex. Whenever in the Constitution the term 'men' is used in reference to grand or petit juries, such term shall include persons of the female as well as the male sex."

Sec. 2. The foregoing Constitutional Amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of this State at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1954, at which election all ballots shall have written or printed thereon, or in counties using voting machines, such machines shall provide for the following:

"FOR the Constitutional Amendment to require women to serve on juries."